A Morning That Rarely Comes

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I LEAVE BEFORE THE CRACK OF DAWN AND COME BACK IN THE DAYLIGHT.
TOKYO DAILY REPORT
VROOM
MY MORNINGS START EARLY.
稀に訪れる朝
A MORNING THAT RARELY COMES
HARUKI FUJIMOTO
I wonder why
OH
HIS LIGHT IS ON AGAIN TODAY
IS THIS WHY I DON'T RUN INTO PEOPLE?
Is that already the time?
VROOM
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT THAT SINGLE POINT OF LIGHT FOR A WHILE.
WHY WOULD ANYONE BE AWAKE AT THIS TIME?

Pure, Pure Oneshot
稀に訪れる■■朝
32P
A MORNING THAT RARELY COMES
HOW I TAKE HEART IN THAT LIGHT...!
Popular manga now on sale!!
Hana to Comics
AS ALWAYS HAVE A GOOD DAY.
Is he delivering love, too?
An early riser discovers feelings that matter.
藤本ハルキ
Haruki Fujimoto

SORRY FOR ASKING YOU HERE OUT OF BLUE...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I JUST FINISHED WORK AND IT'S LONELY EATING ALL BY MYSELF
OH
EVEN SO
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M A PRISONER THIS MORNING MR PAPER DELIVERY GUY
UHM
HUH?
OH, YOUR NAME. RIGHT, RIGHT...
Is that it?
UH... I'M YUUDAI ICHIKAWA.
I'M CHIDZURU SASAKI. 26 YEARS OLD.
I'M A MANGA ARTIST.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ONE. HE'S SURPRISINGLY NORMAL. I MEAN HE'S NOT SOME BIG GEEK...
YOU'RE... A MANGA ARTIST...?
Oh.
YEAH. HAVE YOU HEARD OF ME? I DRAW FOR THE BOY'S MAGAZINE, RISE COMICS.
MANGA ARTIST...
Oda-Kashima
Sorry for the wait
Yay! Time to eat!
I'M GUESSING YOU'RE A COLLEGE STUDENT
AREN'T YOU THE RIGHT AGE FOR READING MANGA?
OH, WELL, I SEE.
OH, SORRY. I HAVEN'T.
SO, DELIVERING NEWSPAPERS ISN'T YOUR PART-TIME JOB?
IT'S THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
I'M 19, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO COLLEGE.
Thank you for the food.

It is?
Yeah
I come from a family of businessmen
I didn't follow in their footsteps though
IT WASN'T ANYTHING HE THOUGHT OR SAID IN PARTICULAR BUT...
I'm so impressed with young people!
COOL!
The family business!
THAT'S GREAT!
I'M FULL...!
NAAH
ARE YOU GOING BACK TO WORK IN YOUR APARTMENT NOW?
OF COURSE MY DAYS WERE UNEVENTFUL
I FOUND HIM INTRIGUING AND A GOOD PERSON

I JUST HAD DINNER. I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
!?
Right now?! In the morning?!
WELL SEE YOU TOMORROW MORNING!
LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST!
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED... TAKE A LOOK AT MY MANGA
↓Narrowly muted.
SO MANGA ARTISTS ARE WEIRD AFTER ALL
AFTER THAT, CHIDZURU-SAN...
VROOM
CLOSE
Click
...

IF TIME PERMITTED, WE'D DRINK SOME COFFEE AND TALK A LITTLE
HATA-CHAN
.... WOULD STAND BY THE WINDOW AND GREET ME WHENEVER I PASSED BY.
京都日報
...DO YOU HAVE ANY MANGA BY SOMEONE CALLED CHIDZURU SABAKI?
You've got a lot of manga
HUH?
Wait! Before you go
TAKE WHATEVER
CAN I READ THROUGH YOUR STUFF LATER HATA-CHAN?
I DON'T HAVE ANY OF HIS BOOKS, BUT MAYBE I HAVE SOMETHING IN A MAGAZINE
WHAT? YOU FEEL LIKE READING SOME?
I GUESS

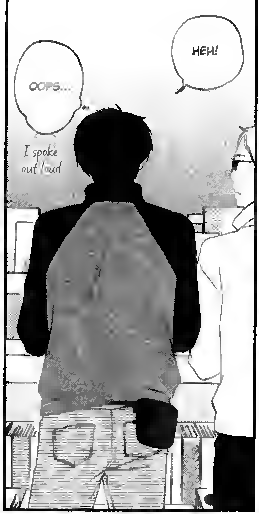
IT'S WHAT I EXPECTED FROM A BOY'S MAGAZINE BUT
Beef stew!
Ugh I'm so tired
What's for dinner Yuuko?
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SO THIS IS "ACTION FANTASY"? I GUESS IT'S ENTERTAINING TO PEOPLE WHO LIKE IT
POUR
BUT I'M NOT REALLY INTO THIS KIND OF THING
I UNDERSTAND WANTING TO DRAW BUT
Simmer
Simmer
KINDA
ARE YOU UPSET?
I'M SORRY

I'M NOT SURE AN AMATEUR SHOULD BE GIVING HIS OPINION BUT
I want to be honest
OH, IT'S FINE DON'T WORRY
MY EDITOR SAYS THE SAME THING
I'm scared to draw it
NOTHING
HUH?
HE WANTS ME TO CHANGE DIRECTIONS
or he's leaving
WELL I WANT TO DRAW MANGA, BUT NOT WHEN IT'S A SUBJECT I DON'T LIKE
I DON'T MIND CHANGING BECAUSE I WANT MY WORK TO GROW BUT
MY EDITOR TOLD ME TO DRAW A LOVE STORY!
We don't even run that kind of story in our magazine
THAT'S A LITTLE
MAYBE I UNDERSTAND
I LIKE YOUR DRAWINGS, CHIDZURU-SAN, BUT...
...FANTASY DOESN'T MAKE A LOT OF SENSE TO ME, SO SOMETHING MORE REALISTIC...
WHAT'S THIS?
HUH?
Rustle

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE TIRED OF FAMILY RESTAURANTS WHILE YOU'RE WORKING.
...
Smells good!
You can open it
sniff sniff
I COOKED TOO MUCH STEW FOR DINNER SO...
I decided to share it
OH— THAT'S
THERE ARE ONLY TWO PEOPLE IN MY FAMILY, SO, IF YOU'D LIKE, SOMETIMES...
ICHIKAWA-KUN IF I DRAW SOMETHING CONTEMPORARY, WOULD YOU READ IT FOR ME?
Is this guy listening to what I'm saying?
UM SURE
THANK YOU.
I haven't had stew in a while.
WHY DOES EVERYTHING THIS PERSON SAY AFFECT ME SO DEEPLY?
I'LL MAKE YOU WANT TO READ IT ICHIKAWA-KUN
THEN, I'LL TRY MY BEST!

BOOKS
I RARELY GO TO BOOKSTORES BUT I WOUND UP GOING TO ONE
UH?
I WONDER IF IT'S THE ONE WE MENTIONED BEFORE
Hard to say
THESE
ARE CHIDZURU-SAN'S PUBLISHED COMICS
IT'S LIKE I'VE NEVER HEARD "THANK YOU" BEFORE
THE STEW TURNED OUT WELL
Hehe
NEXT TIME MAYBE I'LL MAKE IT A SURPRISE
WHETHER IT'S NORMAL OR NOT, I FIND HIM INTRIGUING

SHUT


OOPS...
I spoke out loud
HEH!

...

WHY AM I GETTING SO FLUSTERED?

That'll be 1,260 yen.
I THINK THIS WILL MAKE ME MORE COMFORTABLE
HE DREW A LOVE SCENE!
I ENJOYED IT I MEAN I
STEP

I ENJOYED IT
HONESTLY IT MAKES ME HAPPY
I SHOULD GIVE CHIDZURU-SAN MY FEEDBACK SOON
BECAUSE HE DREW FOR ME IN A WAY I'D UNDERSTAND
BUT
I'LL MAKE YOU WANT TO READ IT ICHIKAWA-KUN
THEN, I'LL TRY MY BEST...!

I WONDER IF THAT'S HOW HE FEELS ABOUT ME NOW?

THAT ALONE CONSUMED ME

THE MAIN CHARACTER'S FEELINGS MADE MY CHEST CONSTRICT

I CAN'T LOOK AT HIS APARTMENT WINDOW
YUUDAI
YUU...
HEY!
YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD
WHAT'S WRONG? HAVE YOU HAD A COLD LATELY?
HUH?
What is it?

WHY HAVEN'T I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF HIM?
IRFINA
He's sleeping today
I FIND MYSELF WONDERING HOW HE'S DOING
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN AVOIDING HIM
RATTLE
IT'S SO COLD ...!
THESE LAST FEW DAYS
I'M EVEN MAKING MY DAD WORRY WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
Shit
HE EXPERIENCES UNCOMFORTABLE FEELINGS, LIKE JEALOUSY AND LONGING, THEN EVENTUALLY REALIZES THAT HE'S IN LOVE
IT'S A PRETTY COMMON STORY, BUT...
IN CHIDZURU-SAN'S MANGA, THE MISSING PART OF ME, THE MAIN CHARACTER IS A COLLEGE STUDENT WHO HAPPENS TO MEET A YOUNGER GIRL IN HIS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

GRIP
VROOM
...IT WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME RECOGNIZE MY OWN FEELINGS.
THE REASON WHY I FOUND CHIDZURU-SAN SO INTRIGUING
...AND FELT OUR CONVERSATIONS WERE SPECIAL
...AND I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING TO A BOOKSTORE
VROOM

IT'S ALREADY DAWN AGAIN
BANG
DID I EVER THINK ANYTHING WAS THIS BEAUTIFUL BEFORE?
STOP
ICHIKAWA-KUN!
!

Huh?! I'm sinning
WAH WHY?!
CHIDZURU-SAN?!
WOBBLE
AGHH!
THUD
His soul
CHIDZURU-SAN?!
I'M SORRY
ICHIKAWA-KUN

ARE YOU OKAY CHIDZURU-SAN?
YEAH. I'M MUCH BETTER NOW
I MAKE DELIVERIES IN THIS AREA LAST SO—
No problem.
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING RIGHT NOW?
IS THIS OKAY?
I DON'T THINK I CAN SAY "LET'S GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT."
WHAT?
It's good for you
HERE. TAKE THIS.

NO YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY WHEN YOU'RE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT
YOUR BODY GETS HEAVY AND YOUR EYES ROLL
I fin shed it last night
OH SO YOU'VE BEEN WORKING?
Ah
YEAH.
I'VE HAD A LOT OF PAGES TO DO LATELY.
It's hard when you're not used to it
WHEN I KEEP UP THAT PACE FOR A LONG TIME, MY SLEEP SCHEDULE GETS MESSED UP...
REALLY?
Heh

I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU
HUH?
HOW MANY DAYS HAS IT BEEN?
WE FINALLY RAN INTO EACH OTHER
THE TIME I WOKE UP, THE SUN WAS ALREADY UP AND...
...I WAS WORRIED THAT I'D MISS YOU AGAIN TODAY.
HE DIDN'T KNOW I WASN'T LOOKING AT HIS WINDOW
sigh
I TOLD YOU MY SLEEP SCHEDULE HAS BEEN MESSED UP, RIGHT?
I FELL ASLEEP AT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TIME THAN USUAL
STAB
WE HAVEN'T HAD A MEAL IN A WHILE
I KEEP GETTING PHONE CALLS FROM MY EDITOR ABOUT LAST MINUTE DEADLINES
Sleep is no laughing matter

I'VE ALSO
BEEN WANTING TO SEE YOU
BECAUSE
I LOVE YOU CHIDZURU-SAN
EVEN IF HE DOESN T FEEL THE SAME WAY
I'M REALLY HAPPY WHENEVER WE MEET

HUH?
TH-THAT'S
THIS IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY, BUT...
THAT ONE WORD CAN MAKE ME FEEL SO HAPPY
IF HE FEELS THE SAME WAY... THEN I'D FEEL EVEN MORE...
I...
UH...

IT'S QUIET, SO I CAN CONCENTRATE...
...AND I CAN ENTER MY OWN WORLD
BUT...
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON MY MANUSCRIPTS AT NIGHT
BUT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE...
LATELY, I'VE BEEN THINKING DAYTIME IS GOOD TOO
I CAN HEAR THE VOICES OF PEOPLE TALKING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND...
...I CAN PICK UP MATERIAL FROM THAT
I'D ALSO SAVE ON MY ELECTRIC BILL
It's economical

I WANT TO SEE YOU MORE OFTEN, ICHIKAWA-KUN
WELL...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO GREET YOU FIRST THING IN THE MORNING... BUT
I might be sound asleep ☆
LEAN
HEH, HEH...
Smile
Smile
Smile
SLIDE

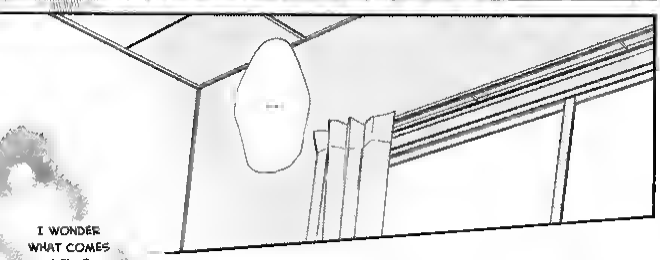
...DON'T WORRY...
YOU'RE CUTE, ICHIKAWA-KUN
LEAN
REALLY?
IS THAT SO?
YOU'RE CUTER, CHIDZURU-SAN

tousle
tousle
tousle
tousle
tousle
Really cute!
YOU'RE SO CUTE!
Ha ha ha
WHAT?!
I'm not cute!
!?
WHAT?
Ah

Ah
NN
AH
AH
OH, NO... ' WHAT SHOULD I DO?
grab
...ICHIKAWA-KUN...

flmp
WHAT ABOUT JUST TOUCHING?
It's too late for the bathroom
OH, NO
I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD. BUT... IF IT'S NOT MUTUAL
Wh
WHAT?!
Sorry!
ICHIKAWA-KUN...
THAT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, RIGHT...?

TROUBLE
S-SORRY ! I'M GOING TO
AH
I'M SORRY!
Do you have a tissue?
YOUR HAND IS DIRTY
NEVER MIND THAT.
AH
ah.



I WONDER WHAT COMES NEXT?

CHIDZURU-SAN

...FALLING IN LOVE HAS BEEN EMBARRASSING AND DIFFICULT SO FAR.

I WOKE UP THINKING...

blush
I MEAN I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU DREW IT ABOUT ME
I really identified with the main character's feelings
I READ YOUR MANGA
I ENJOYED IT
HM?
SO YOU KNOW HOW IT ENDS
What happens?
NO I DREW THE SEQUEL TODAY
BUT IT DOESN'T END WHEN HE THINKS, "MAYBE WE'RE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER." DOES IT?
How does this kid manage to be so cute...?!
HOW CUTE...!
IF YOU'RE THE MAIN CHARACTER
IT MUST HAVE A HAPPY ENDING!
I'm looking forward to reading it later
A MORNING THAT RARELY COMES END